



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

SEPTEMBER 3, 2002
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST DEFENDANT SENTENCED IN CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE AT LEAST 100 KILOS OF COCAINE IN MID-MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that the first of 15 defendants was sentenced today for his role in a conspiracy to distribute large quantities of powder and crack cocaine and launder drug money in mid-Missouri since 1998. They were indicted by a federal grand jury in a conspiracy alleged to have brought more than 100 kilos of cocaine into Columbia, Mo.

Zachary Cornelius Warfield, 28, currently in federal prison at Texarkana, Texas, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to 10 years in prison without parole, to run concurrent to a 31-month sentence he is currently serving.

Warfield pleaded guilty on May 24, 2002 to Count One of the federal indictment, which alleges that he conspired with others to distribute at least five kilos of cocaine in Boone County between January 1998 and September 21, 2001.

Besides **Warfield**, Graves said, 11 co-defendants in that case have entered guilty pleas. One defendant is now deceased. The conspiracy to which these defendants have admitted involved purchasing cocaine from a source in Texas, Graves said, then transporting it to Missouri for distribution in the Columbia area.

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ADDITIONAL DEFENDANTS

Not all of the defendants are charged in every count of the federal indictment, which includes four separate but related conspiracy charges, two criminal forfeiture counts, and 26 various substantive charges.

Byron D. Ballinger, 43, of Columbia, Mo., pleaded guilty on June 19, 2002, two counts of the federal indictment, which alleges that he distributed and possessed with the intent to distribute crack cocaine in Boone County on July 27, 2000 and on July 20, 2000.

Desmond Fontaine Turner, 23, currently in state custody, pleaded guilty on May 24, 2002 to Count Fifteen of the federal indictment, which alleges that he conspired with others to distribute at least 50 grams of crack cocaine in Boone County from about January 1998 to September 21, 2001.

Ellis Orlando Ford, 48, of Centralia, Mo., pleaded guilty on May 24, 2002 to Count Fourteen of the federal indictment, which alleges that he conspired with others to launder the proceeds from cocaine trafficking.

Summer Rae Mills, 23, of Columbia, Mo., pleaded guilty on May 24, 2002 to Count One of the federal indictment, which alleges that she conspired with others to distribute at least 5 kilos of cocaine in Boone County between January 1998 to September 21, 2001. **Mills** also pleaded guilty to Count 14, which alleges that she conspired with others to launder the proceeds from cocaine trafficking.

Rhonda Kaye White, 44, of Houston, Texas, pleaded guilty on May 24, 2002 to Count One of the federal indictment, which alleges that she conspired with others to distribute at least 5 kilos of cocaine in Boone County between January 1998 to September 21, 2001. **White** also pleaded guilty to Count 14, which alleges that she conspired with others to launder the proceeds from cocaine trafficking.

Sheila Michelle Jeys, 35, of Columbia, and **Kimberly R. Black**, 26, of Columbia, both pleaded guilty on April 19, 2002, to one charge of conspiring with others to distribute and possession with the intent to distribute at least five kilos of cocaine between January 1998 and September 21, 2001. **Black** and **Jeys** also pleaded guilty to one charge of conspiring with others to launder the proceeds from cocaine trafficking.

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Charles Key, Jr., 27, currently in state custody, pleaded guilty on April 26, 2002, to conspiring with others to distribute and to possess with the intent to distribute five kilos or more of cocaine. Key also pleaded guilty to conspiring with others to launder the proceeds from cocaine trafficking.

Wayne Darnell Allen, 25, of Columbia, pleaded guilty on April 26, 2002, to conspiring with others to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute at least 50 grams of crack; and to conspiring with others to launder the proceeds from cocaine trafficking. **Allen** also pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm despite having been previously convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.

Lashawna Renee Broadus, 23, of Columbia, pleaded guilty on April 26, 2002, to using the mails between Houston, Texas, and Columbia, Missouri, with the intent to facilitate the promotion of an unlawful activity – that is, to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute cocaine. **Broadus** also pleaded guilty to distribution and possession with intent to distribute at least five grams of crack.

Juan Marcel Hord, 30, of Columbia, pleaded guilty on April 19, 2002, to one charge of conspiring to distribute and possession with the intent to distribute at least 50 grams of crack cocaine between January 1998 and September 21, 2001.

Travis Lamont Crump, 25, of Columbia, is now deceased.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony P. Gonzalez. It was investigated by the Mid-Missouri Unified Strike Team and Narcotics Group (MUSTANG), the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Boone County Sheriff's Department, Columbia Police Department, Boonville Police Department, Fulton Police Department, the Jefferson City, Police Department, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and the Houston, Texas, Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow